

## G.A.T.E. Program tonight

Would you like to be able to recognize gang/youth problems? Join the Eagle Lake Police Department and Crime Stoppers in a Gang Awareness Through Education (G.A.T.E.) program Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. at Eagle Lake Primary School. The program, in English and Spanish, will be presented by Aldine ISD Police Department's Gang Task Force. Call Chief Webb at 234-7307 for more information.

## Immunizations available

Hepatitis B is a virus that infects the liver and can cause permanent damage and even death to those infected with it. People can get this disease by being exposed to the blood of an infected person. To get infected, the exposure has to be blood coming into contact with any mucous membrane (the moist part of you... your mouth, eyes, vagina or rectum), or the (See Immunizations, Page 8)

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Raider Band to present Spring Concert

The Mighty Raider Bands will present their Spring Concert beginning at 7 p.m. Monday, May 19, in the gym at Rice High School. Band Directors James Talton, Patty LaTouf and Stan Miller invite everyone to come enjoy a musical evening with their students.

### Cheerleading mini-camp is June 23-26

A cheerleading mini-camp will be held June 23 through 26. Time and place for elementary students are 9 to 10 a.m. at Sheridan, Eagle Lake and Garwood Schools; and Jr. High Cheerleaders, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Rice High School. The cost is \$10 per person. Come join the fun; everyone's welcome.

### Historical Commission to meet tonight

The Colorado County Historical Commission will hold its next meeting on May 15 at 7 p.m. at the St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church activity center in Frelsburg. Commission member Theodore Schultz will present a program on cotton gins. For more information call Joe Fling 409-732-8203.

### Pre-Juneteenth Gospel Fest is June 14

A Pre-Juneteenth Gospel Fest will be June 14 at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Alleyton from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. There will be games, rides, food and good gospel music. If you are interested in having booth space, call 409-234-7267 or 281-342-7557; the fee is \$25. If you're looking for a good time, organizers guarantee this is the place for you! They say you'll have a Hallelujah time!!!

### Class of 1977 plan reunion

Can you believe it's been 20 years since the Rice High School Class of 1977 graduated? Plans are in the works for a class reunion and help is needed! If you can help in any way, the organizers would love to hear from you. Call or write A.S.A.P.: Cynthia Tomchesson Treybig, 7403 Quiet Glen Drive, Sugar Land, Texas 77479, 281-343-1695; or Kathy Frenzel Stephens, 705 Burns, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434, 409-234-3235. Parents and friends... addresses are still needed for some class members. Please call and leave a message, or write, if you have current addresses.

### Rock Island Homecoming is May 25

The Annual Homecoming-Memorial Day Service of the Myrtle Cemetery Assoc. will be held at the air-conditioned former Rock Island School gym, Sunday, May 25. A beef and sausage barbecue dinner, with all the trimmings (dessert and iced tea or coffee included), will be served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost per plate for adults is \$6, for children, \$3.50. The Memorial Service will be at 1 p.m.

### 3rd Annual Polkatennial is May 24, 25

On May 24 and 25, the 3rd Annual Stars & Stripes Polkatennial will be held in Needville. Saturday, dancing goes from 3 to 11 p.m. Sunday, there will be a Polka Mass at 10 a.m.; dancing will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Both days will feature special attractions like hourly door prize drawings, a Stars & Stripes Dress Contest and fun parade. Saturday bands will be Leo Majek and the Central Texas Sounds; Sunday's, Bobby Jones, Cloverleaf Orchestra and Johnny Mouton Cajun Band. Admission each day is \$6. For more information, call 281-480-3965 or 409-793-6855.

### H.O.M.E. to hold car wash Saturday

The Hispanic Organization of Mentors and Educators (H.O.M.E.) will hold a car wash Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Services, 720 S. McCarty. The car wash will benefit the family of Phillip Juarez.

### Parish of the Nativity to hold picnic

The Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake, will hold a June Picnic Sunday, June 8, at 310 N. Stevenson, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Grounds. Serving of the barbecue chicken and sausage dinner will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Adult plates are \$5; kids plates \$3 (curb service available, adult plates only). There will be amusements and games and an auction at 1 p.m. A drawing will be held immediately after the auction. Enter the horseshoe pitching and/or volleyball tournaments. For more information, call 409-234-2842.

### G.A.T.E. program to be presented May 15

Would you like to be able to recognize gang and other youth problems? Come join the Eagle Lake Police Department and Crime Stoppers in a Gang Awareness Through Education (G.A.T.E.) program Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Primary School. The program, in English and Spanish, will be presented by Aldine ISD Police Department's Gang Task Force. See up close display items such as gang clothing, artwork, graffiti, etc. that officers will bring. Contact Chief Keith Webb at 234-7307 for more information.

### New facility grand opening is May 27

May 27 at 10 a.m. is the grand opening of the new Specialty Clinic located at the Eagle Lake Medical Clinic owned by Rice Medical Center. This new clinic is currently under construction and being readied for the specialty physicians who come to Eagle Lake for the convenience of area patients. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception at the clinic. Come help us celebrate. All will be welcome.

### Boost job search with WCJC program

Wharton County Junior College-Dislocated Workers Program offers free assistance to individuals who have been laid off or have been notified of an upcoming layoff. Services include career counseling and testing, job search skills classes, retraining and job placement assistance. Orientations are held every Tuesday. Call to register at 281-344-0279 Ext. 32.

### My Friend's House 'camp' to begin June 2

The United Methodist Church's My Friend's House will begin a "Summer Camp" program on June 2. The camp is offered to all pre-school and primary school children. Register by May 15 and take off 5% of the registration fee. Sign up a friend and take an additional discount. For more information, contact Gail Gertson at 409-234-3330.

### Mt. Moriah Baptist Church presents play

Sisters-In-Christ Ministries a ministry of poetry, are back by popular demand to present "It Was My Trial But, Jesus Was The One Who Died", an original gospel play written by Houston's own Minister R.C. Barnes. The play will be Saturday, May 24, beginning at 5 p.m. at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Alleyton. For directions to the church or more information, call 234-7267, 713-734-7810, 281-342-7557 or 281 550-6055. This is an open door program. Please, don't miss this exciting evening of praise!!

### My Friend's House holding pre-registration

The United Methodist Church's My Friend's House is holding pre-registration for the 1997-98 school year for all pre-school children. Contact Gail Gertson at 409-234-3330 for information. Remember, enrollment is limited!!

(See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

## Rice Athletic Director Jackson reassigned

By Lynda Appelt  
Contributing Writer

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees learned Monday night that Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Dennis Jackson has been reassigned to Eagle Lake Middle School as a physical education teacher and coach.

The announcement was made by Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott and will take effect at the end of June when

Jackson's current contract expires.

Jackson, a longtime employee of the District, had served as athletic director and head football coach for the previous three years. He compiled a 6-24 record with his best season coming in 1995 when the Raiders were 4-6.

In a letter to Gott, ELMS principal Deborah Matthys and the Board, Jackson said, "I would like to return to the middle school as coach and physi-

cal education teacher, effective with the beginning of the 1997-98 school year."

Jackson said that, if he were reassigned, he would give all future athletic directors the support that he has received in the position.

"While I am aware that being in charge of a person who has had a position of authority can be awkward, I will do everything in my power not to allow the situation to become uncom-

fortable," said Jackson in his letter.

"I will make sure that the students and parents of this community are aware that the change is what I want and encourage them to accept changes in the future as they have in the past."

Jackson added that he sincerely appreciated the opportunity that the District's administration has given him as well as the support given by the faculty, staff, student body and community over the three years that he served as athletic director.

When contacted Tuesday morning, Jackson said that he had no further comment on the situation other than to say that it was the "best thing for me at this time."

Gott said he planned to move forward "quickly" in seeking a replacement.

"We will move forward now. I have already had a number of calls today (Tuesday) and we are already (See Board, Page 4)

## Eagle Lake's sales tax rebate dips slightly

John Sharp, State Comptroller of Public Accounts, last week delivered \$216.5 million in monthly sales tax payments to 1,086 Texas cities and 117 counties.

"The Texas economy continues its slow, steady expansion and May sales tax rebates to Texas cities and counties were \$19.7 million higher than those for May 1996," Sharp said. "Year-to-date, Texas allocations are running 5.6% ahead of the first five months of last year."

Sharp delivered sales tax rebates totaling \$199.3 million to Texas cities, 9.9% higher than last May's payments. Rebates of \$17.1 million to Texas counties were 11.1% more than allocations in May 1996. City transit and special purpose districts received a combined \$7.7 million in May.

This month's sales tax rebates include local sales taxes collected on March sales by businesses filing

monthly returns and reported to the Comptroller in April, and those businesses filing quarterly returns for Jan., Feb. and March.

The City of Houston received a rebate of \$27.2 million in May, 6.8% higher than last year's payment for the same month. Year-to-date payments to the City of Houston are up by 3%.

The \$17.9 million local sales tax allocation to Dallas for May reflects a 8.3% increase from the \$16.5 million in sales tax rebate for the same month last year. Dallas' year-to-date payments are running 2.5% ahead of those for the first five months of 1996.

The San Antonio sales tax allocation for May was \$10.4 million, 5.2% higher than the May 1996 payment of \$9.8 million. Year-to-date, San Antonio has received a 4.5% increase in local sales tax payments.

The Austin sales tax rebate for May totaled \$7.8 million, 5.8% higher

than the May 1996 payment of \$7.4 million. For the first five months of 1997, Austin's sales tax rebates are 2% higher than those for the same period last year.

The City of Ft. Worth's \$6 million allocation was 6.9% over the \$5.6 (See Rebates, Page 10)

## EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following cases and calls for the week ending May 13.

On May 6, 1996, at 3:38 p.m., Officer Carl Risk was dispatched to 1101 E. Main Street in reference to a theft. Officer Risk arrived, spoke with several witnesses and the complainant and filed a report. The case is under investigation.

At 8:44 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to a disturbance on Fairview Street. There was no violence; no police action was taken.

On May 7, at 12:03 a.m., Officer Brian Ochoa stopped a vehicle on Beaks Street matching a description of a stolen vehicle put out by the County Sheriff's Office. The vehicle was confirmed stolen and Officer Ochoa arrested the driver, Preston Jenkins, who was detained until Deputy Troy Neisner arrived and took custody. The vehicle was released to the owner.

At 1:11 a.m., Officer Tim Crume was dispatched to a disturbance on State Street where he found no offense had been committed. No other police action was taken.

Lt. Clem Johnson was dispatched to a burglar alarm in the 1200 block of East Main at 9:06 a.m., but found it to be a false alarm.

On May 8, at 1:56 a.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to the 300 block of Church Street in reference to an unwanted person on the premises. The subject was advised to leave the premises and no other action was

necessary.

At 6:55 a.m., Officer Crume was advised of a suspicious person sleeping in a vehicle in the 100 block of State Street. The subject and vehicle were checked out and neither were wanted. The subject advised she had become too sleepy to drive and pulled over to rest a bit before continuing to Houston.

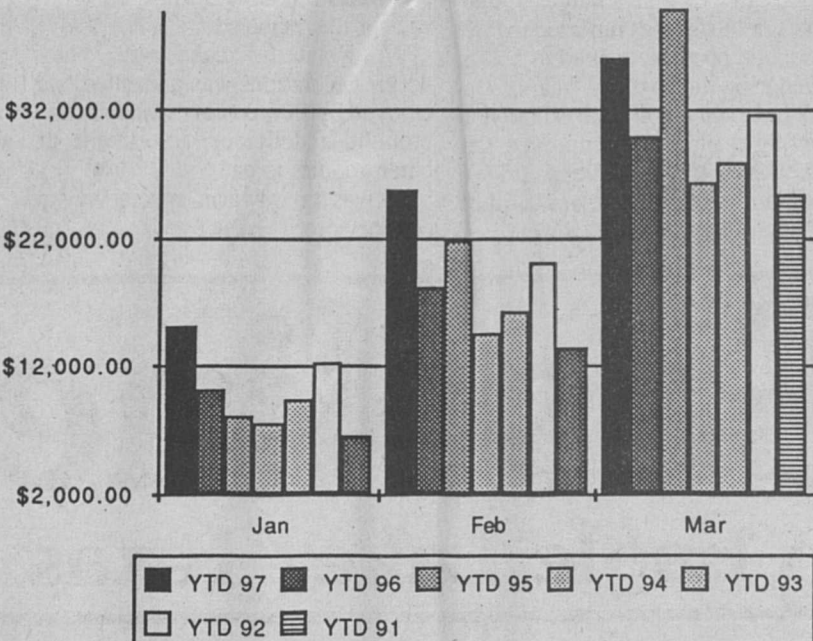
At 6:42 p.m., Officer Crume was contacted at the police department in reference to a missing person, and a report was filed. The police department later learned that the subjects had returned home safely.

At 9:55 p.m., Officers Risk and Bill Lattimore were contacted at the police department in reference to an unruly juvenile. A representative of Colorado County Youth and Family Services was called to the police department to counsel the juvenile.

On May 9, at 12:54 a.m., Officer Risk was dispatched to the 600 block of East Main Street in reference to an activated alarm. Officer Risk found the alarm and had been set off during closing of the store and all was secure.

Lt. Johnson and Officer Crume investigated the following accident. At 2:39 p.m. during the rain, Mr. Henry Brown, who is a 96 year old Eagle Lake resident, drove out of the B&B Food Store parking lot and onto Hwy. 90A where he had an accident with an 18-wheeler.

Mr. Brown turned left into the east (See Police, Page 4)



Year-to-date sales tax rebate totals for the City of Eagle Lake since 1991 charted against the month the tax is collected by local businesses.

## RMC gets an 'A' from JCAH

Rice Medical Center (RMC) has achieved accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAH) as a result of its demonstrated compliance with the Joint Commission's nationally recognized health care standards.

Formed in 1951, the Joint Commission is dedicated to improving the quality of the nation's health care through voluntary accreditation. The Joint Commission's on-site survey of RMC occurred in April.

"Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care," says Charles Bair, executive vice president, Division of Accreditation Operations, JCAH. "Your communities should be proud that RMC is focusing on the most challenging goal - to continuously raise quality to higher levels."

Administrator David Keith spoke of his pride in a staff that worked tremendously hard to prepare for the survey. He especially complimented Susan Hernandez, RN, for coordinating the hospital accreditation efforts and motivating employees to achieve such high standards. "RMC is making a comeback and this is more proof that we do have a lot to offer to our communities. We could not have scored such high marks without the commitment from the Board of Directors and medical staff," Keith said.

RMC is accredited for another three years. Although accreditation

signifies commitment to quality improvement, it is increasingly used as a (See RMC, Page 10)



## Driver escapes serious injury

On Friday, May 9, at approximately 2:39 p.m., Lt. Clem Johnson and Officer Tim Crume investigated a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 90A. Magdalene Armendariz, 65, of Sealy, driver of the 18-wheeler pictured above, escaped with only injuries to his leg and hip. If it were not for the two trees in his path, he may have ended up in the Walter Frnka home on S. McCarty. The other person involved in the accident was Henry Brown, 95, of Eagle Lake. The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Colorado County Emergency Medical Services Unit #803 worked diligently to pull Armendariz from the wreckage. (See additional picture, Page 8.)

Headlight Photo by Carol Cardenas